



Pittsburgh Lutheran

March 2006

Noted Author and Historian to Speak on *Christianity's Competition* at Afternoon Seminar in State College

STATE COLLEGE—Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, State College, invites you to a seminar featuring Dr. Paul L. Maier on the topic "Christianity and the Competition—Who is Right?"

Dr. Paul Maier will enlighten the audience about the true roots and the strong evidence of the Christian faith and how it contrasts to various other religions, sects and cults all over the world, including Christian Science, Jehovah's Witness, Mormonism, Scientology, and many more.

Dig into the **truth**—and learn the facts about Christianity which are rooted deeply in ancient history, archaeology and other disciplines.

Test the claims of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Shintoism. Look at the claims of Islam, Christianity's greatest competitor, and how to guard against the great dangers of intolerance and judgmentalism in offering a Christian response. Learn how you can bridge the gap and arm yourself with faith, love and logic.

(Please continue article on page 4.)



Developing Disciples

Lutheran Schools
A Great Place To Grow

"...grow up into Him... Christ." Ephesians 4:15

To see what Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools are doing during National Lutheran Schools Week March 5-11, turn to pages 8-10.

Calvary to Sponsor Alzheimer's Workshop

MURRYSVILLE—Calvary Lutheran Church will host a workshop on Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia that are becoming more prevalent as an aging population continues to grow in numbers. A representative from the Alzheimer's Association will present on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the church at 4725 Old William Penn Highway.

The **Maintain Your Brain** one-hour interactive workshop features nutritional and lifestyle advice, strategies to keep your memory sharp, interactive exercises and activities, and more. This program is designed primarily for persons in the age group of 40 to 60. The program focuses on 10 actions that may aid in prolonging the onset of or inhibiting Alzheimer's disease.

In all cases of dementia the brain is impaired in some manner that pre-

vents the transmission of neurons in the brain cells, thus promoting memory loss and abnormal behavior. It is estimated that one in 10 persons over the age of 65 and nearly half of those over 85 have Alzheimer's or some form of dementia. The cost for care averages about \$12,500 per year for in home care by family members and \$42,000 to \$70,000 for nursing home care. Like most health care costs, these are expected to increase.

Studies have indicated that certain lifestyles may prevent or delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease. In concert with medical experts, the Alzheimer's Association developed the program **Maintain Your Brain**, which focuses on lifestyle behavior.

For reservations, phone Jeanne Trathowen at 724.327.2898 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

LOST AND FOUND



IN CONCERT

\$8.00 in Advance Sunday, April 9th, 3pm \$10 at the Door
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
40 Riverside Blvd., Freedom, PA
Contact Vicar Nathan Ruback at 314-496-5865

Popular Duo Returns to Pittsburgh Area for Concert

FREEDOM—You are invited to a concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 9 at 3 p.m. The music of LOST AND FOUND is not easy to describe. Their music is unlike any style widely heard in Christian music - perhaps any music - today. If you like unique, this is for you.

Basically, LOST AND FOUND is two guys playing acoustic instruments as hard and fast as they can and occasionally singing a ballad. Whatever the musical style, through LOST AND FOUND'S words, stories and concert, the message of God's love in Christ is easy to discern.

The songs of LOST AND FOUND have been recognized by publishers and others as some of the best around. In 1999, LOST AND FOUND won Grand Prize in the John Lennon International Songwriting contest.

If you have any questions, would like to buy tickets (\$8 in advance or \$10 at the door, ages 5 and under FREE), or want to help publicize the concert, please call Vicar Nathan Ruback at 314.496.5865 or e-mail Nathan.Ruback@cuw.edu. Don't miss a great event! Check out LOST AND FOUND at www.speedwood.com

As I See It

The Forgiveness of Sins..

When Jesus began his earthly ministry he came to John the Baptist to be baptized. When John saw Jesus coming, he declared, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29) All who heard John understood what he meant. The Lamb of God was to be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

Some years ago I did a radio interview with a noted evangelical author who had written a book about the cross of Christ. It was Good Friday. My final question to him was, "If there are people listening to us today who are not certain of their forgiveness, what would you say to them?"

"Well," he replied somewhat hesitantly. "I would want to know if they had truly repented of all their known sins."

I was taken back and highly disturbed by his foolish response. Since there were only a few minutes left in the program, I hurriedly thanked the man for being my guest and disconnected the phone line. I had a mess to clean up. In the remaining minute I told my listeners,

"Listen very carefully. The forgiveness of sins is not about you and what you have done or haven't done. If you are not sure that your sins are for-

given, look to the Cross of Jesus Christ. Did our Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God, die or didn't He? If Jesus, the Lamb of God, died your sins are forgiven."

The forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is a finished reality. Our faith does not cause us to be forgiven nor does faith add anything to it. Rather, our faith grasps and clings to the truth that God has forgiven us for Jesus' sake. Once I made the statement in a conference that my sins were forgiven because Jesus died. After my presentation, a Baptist participant challenged me,

"Yes," he said. "Your sins are forgiven because Jesus died, *but you must believe it.*"

"What did I just tell you?" I replied. "My sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the Cross. Is that or is that not a statement of faith? This is not about me. This is about Jesus!"

Our sins are forgiven *propter Christum*, or on account of Christ. Faith is the instrument that grasps the finished work of the Cross. If one preaches the convicting law of God whereby the hearers clearly see that they have sinned against God and are brought to contrition, the Gospel can be preached without any mention of faith. The heart that is burdened by the reality of sin is prepared for the hearing of the Gospel - the Good News that sins are forgiven. As Luther put it, "hunger is the best cook."

Many years ago I spoke with a young woman who, having had an abortion as a teenager, was certain that she was going to hell because God would not and could not forgive her. As far as she was concerned, what she had done was so bad that it was beyond forgiveness. She did not understand the basis for the forgiveness of sins or why it is that God did forgive her. My response to her was very simple and adamant,

"Are you saying that your sin is greater than the redeeming power of the blood of Christ, the very Son of God? If that is what you are saying, you either have a very high estimate of yourself and your ability to sin or a very low estimate of the power of God. To deny that your sins are forgiven is to say that God is a liar."

She went home that day clinging to the forgiveness of sins.

The forgiveness of sins is not about you. You are not forgiven because you prayed the sinner's prayer or because you went forward to get saved. You are not forgiven because you have faith or because you have repented of all your known sins. You are not forgiven because you have pleaded with God to forgive you or have been sincere in your contrition and sorrow over sin. Your sins are forgiven for only one reason - Jesus Christ shed His blood on the Cross!

In one of the parishes I served there was a young girl who attended an evangelical summer camp. Before heading for camp, she wanted to speak with me. She was concerned because evenings the campers would gather around the campfire and sing songs. One of the songs was titled, "Name the Day When You Were Saved."

"Pastor," she said. "After they sing that song they point their finger at someone and that person has to name the day when they were saved. If they point at me, I wouldn't know what to say. On what day was I saved?"

"Well," I responded. "If they point at you and want to know on which day you were saved, tell them Friday. If they want to know which Friday, tell them Good Friday, the day the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, shed His precious blood on the Cross to forgive your sins and save you!"

By the Rev. Don Matzat
Zion Lutheran Church
Bridgeville

Rev. Matzat enjoys hearing from his readers. Send your comments to dmatzat@comcast.net.

LCEF

Strategic Ministry Planning

Who sets the agenda or direction for your ministry?


Strategic Ministry Planning (SMP), a ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, helps LCMS churches and schools find direction by asking members to open themselves up to seek God's plan for their organization.

With assistance from an SMP facilitator, organizations develop:

- A faith-based mission statement.
- A mission-focused vision.
- Comprehensive goals and an action plan.

SMP is:

- Designed by Lutherans for Lutherans.
- Grounded in the Word and bound by LCMS doctrine.
- About the work (calling) of an organization.
- Committed to a comprehensive plan.


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Rev. Michael Schumacher Installed at St. Matthew, North Side

PITTSBURGH—Rev. Michael Schumacher of Nampa, Idaho accepted the call to be pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Pittsburgh's North Side, arriving in November, and was joined by his family on January 22. They were present at his installation service on Sunday, January 29, 2006.

The installation service was conducted by the Rev. Paul Meseke, Circuit Counselor and pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Oil City; the Rev. John G. Brunner, president of the Eastern District of LCMS, Buffalo, New York; and the Rev. Roger Nuerge, Regional Vice President of Eastern District and pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freedom, PA. Also present were Rev. Reholma McCants of Unity Lutheran Community Mission; Rev. Ron Rafferty of Immanuel, Braddock and Zion, Lawrenceville;

Rev. John Weldon of Epiphany, Penn Hills; Rev. Herbert Schumm of St. John, Millvale; Rev. Daniel Strussenberg of Good Shepherd, Whitehall; Rev. Mark Ruppert, vacancy pastor of First, Sharpsburg; and Rev. Arthur Litke of Bethel, Glenshaw.



Rachel (16), Carol, Rev. Schumacher, Rebekah (16), Luke (19) and Hannah (12).

Attend Intelligent Design Controversy Seminar

BRENTWOOD—Dr. Angus Menuge, professor of philosophy from Concordia University—Wisconsin, will be giving a presentation at Concordia Lutheran Church, 3109 Brownsville Road, Brentwood, PA 15227 on Saturday, April 1, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The topic will be the current controversy over the theory of intelligent design. This is the scientific view that the natural world contains evidence of a grand designer which suggests that life did not, in fact, evolve randomly over the millenia. Dr. Menuge is a respected authority on the debate.

There will be a light lunch available at the church for those who register by phone in advance. Call 412.881.3005. There is no fee to attend the seminar, but there will be an opportunity to give an offering for those who wish to do so.

Flute Academy Performs to Near Sell-out Audience

On Saturday, February 11, the Flute Academy of First Trinity, Oakland, performed to a nearly sold-out crowd of 2400 at Heinz Hall. Sixty-six flutists in colorful uniform shirts quickly and silently entered the stage and began the first movement of Kirk Vogel's composition, "The Secret Language of Snow."

The Pittsburgh Symphony orchestra joined the flutists in a newly orchestrated version of the third movement for an exciting musical impression of "swirling snow above ridge tops." Many members of First Trinity witnessed this historic event, and also in attendance were the composer's mother, Marjorie (formerly of Good Shepherd, now living in Philadelphia) and his brother, Tim.

More than 70 flutists performed in the Mozart Room pre-concert featuring the youngest Flute Academy students, the Flute Loops. For more information on the Flute Academy visit their Web site at: www.fluteacademy.com



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The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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*Sonshine Kitchen News***It's Not About the Denomination; Christ Alone Builds**

MCKEESPORT—The Sonshine Kitchen will be a place of HOPE for the hurting and poor of McKeesport. We will show them Jesus.

January 2006 marked two anniversaries for the Sonshine Kitchen. The ministry has been in existence for 23 years and for five years it has been a lay-led ministry.

Some facts for 2005:

Average number of people who attended weekly devotion/worship time: 40. Rev. Ernest Knoche, Christ, Forest Hills, continues to lead once a month when the Women's Service Guild cooks and serves.

Average number of people who attended meals weekly: 90 (highest number was 162 the last week in June for a VBS kick-off).

Total number of meals served in 2005: 5,068.

Number of food bags distributed: 2,190 to 488 families on our client list representing 815 people.

State College Seminar

(Article continued from page 1.)

Dr. Paul L. Maier has over 5 million books in publication in a dozen languages, has appeared frequently on national radio and television and is Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University.

The seminar will be held on Sunday, April 9 from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with dinner to follow. A freewill offering is suggested and childcare will be provided.

To reserve a seat, please call 814.234.8177 with the number of people attending (including any children that will require childcare). **The deadline to register for this event is March 31.** Dr. Maier will also be preaching at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship services on April 9 at Good Shepherd, 851 N. Science Park Road, State College, PA 16803.



God continues to bless so many through the Sonshine Kitchen Ministry. We continue to hold weekly devotion/worship time, dinner and clothing bank. We also continue to distribute food bags the second Monday of every month and emergency food bags throughout the month.

God also has opened other doors to expand our outreach by partnering us with a church in McKeesport. This church has a Youth Group of over 300 and has been a big blessing. Their group is known as Student Impact Ministry. Because of this partnership, we have now been able to offer for the second year in a row, a Tutoring/Mentoring program. November through the end of April 21 children and 14 tutors meet from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. each Tuesday. It has been a blessing to see how the children and their high school mentors have bonded.

The enthusiasm of these high school students shine brightly each week. Besides the weekly Tutoring Program, there are around six high students who lead the music for our devotion time and help out at the dinner time where needed. They love being here each week.

In June of 2005, they held a week-long afternoon VBS. They had the kick-off the last Monday in June by asking the children to stay for dinner and then held a cook-out for them along with the regular people we serve each week. That Monday they served 162 people. We had 28 high school students teach 55 neighborhood children that week.

Also for the second year in a row, Student Impact Ministries hosted at their church a Christmas Party for the children of the Sonshine Kitchen and their families. They sent busses over to the Sonshine Kitchen for those who needed transportation. A total of 237 people attended from the Sonshine Kitchen: 88 adults and 149 children. They were all served a sit down meal, had skits, a live nativity and songs. At the end Christmas presents that were purchased by various churches were distributed to the children.

Since November 2005, on the 3rd Sunday of the month, around 50 students come over to the Sonshine Kitchen and lead worship for whoever would come through our doors. The numbers has varied from 18 visitors to 1. They said that they could always

send busses out into our neighborhood and have them brought over to their church on Sunday, but they have felt the call to come out to the neighborhood. The number of attendance does not bother these students, they are excited to have the opportunity to lead the worship.

Not only those that we serve are blessed, but those who serve are blessed also.

David, who is 17, stopped by my office a few months back to talk about all the exciting opportunities that are here at the Sonshine Kitchen. He told me that what he has experienced by teaching at VBS, tutoring, Christmas Party and being here each week, has worked on his heart. He said that he wants to become a minister. Now that is a blessing.

We thank all who continue to support this ministry through prayer, financial support, clothing and food donations and volunteers.

Members from Christ, Forest Hills, continue to come the last Monday of the month to cook and serve a meal. Members from Calvary, Murrysville, cook and serve the second Monday of each month. Immanuel, Braddock, cook for us every other month and send the food over for us to serve. Zion, Accident, MD and Trinity, Monroeville, have also graciously cooked for us.

The Sonshine Kitchen is now a member of the Thrivent Giving Plus Program. Through this program Thrivent members can donate any amount up to a total of \$600 per year to the Sonshine Kitchen and your donation will be matched \$1 for each \$2 donated. Also, if you volunteer 25 or more hours to this organization in a year, Thrivent will contribute an additional \$25. A Gift Form needs to be submitted with your donation each time. If anyone is interested in supporting us this way, please contact me and I will send you a form with instructions.

In His Service,
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Campus Ministry News

It's Not About the Numbers; Christ Alone Builds

OAKLAND—Many statistics could be quoted to demonstrate the health of our Pittsburgh LCMS campus mission/ministry. I have done so previously. But that was a mistake; numerical/statistical focus is a mistake. Numbers are up to the “Holy Spirit, who works faith when and where he pleases” (AC IV.2). Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that “[Christ] builds the church. ...We do not know his plan. We cannot see whether he is building or pulling down. ...Pay no heed to views and opinions. Don't always be calculating what will happen. Church..., confess, confess, confess! ...Christ builds.”

LSF-ISM is about confessing Christ on campus.

In August 2005 I met Queen (China) on Pitt's campus at the Graduate Student Activities Fair. Queen is not a Christian. Shortly thereafter she came to our first-ever Christian Orientation for Students. Later she had a wonderful evening at a First Friday at First Trinity, our monthly social time with dinner, games, movies, etc. Then, a big step: she attended the Divine Service for the Festival of St. Thomas (21 December) in our chapel, calling it “moving and beautiful.” She could understand a lot of the liturgy and preaching “because of the short sentences.” Afterward, several students, Queen, and I went out for an informal dinner; she was so delighted and thankful for the Christian hospitality and wishes to have us to her home in return. Christmas morning Queen again attended worship at First Trinity!



Queen is not a number or a statistic; she is a person whom God created and for whom Christ died. And because of our campus ministry, including your prayers and varied support, the hope is that she will soon move from the death of agnosticism/atheism to true life. There are many such people who have come to First Trinity through Lutheran Student Fellowship or International Student Ministry. To God alone the glory!

Rev. Eric Andrae
Campus Ministry Chaplain
412.683.4121, ext. 2
ERA@FirstTrinity.net



March 10 — Y.A.P.A. Sing Sing, Waterfront, 412.825.0535

March 15 — Alzheimer Workshop, Calvary, Murrysville, 7:30 p.m.

March 24 — Y.A.P.A. Lucky Strike Lanes, Pittsburgh Mills Mall, 412.825.0535

March 24 — Family Movie Night, Immanuel, Braddock, 7 p.m.

April 1 — Intelligent Design Seminar, Concordia, Brentwood, 9 a.m.

April 9 — Lost And Found Concert, Prince of Peace, Freedom, 3 p.m.

April 9 — Dr. Paul Maier Presentation, Good Shepherd, State College, 2 p.m.

April 21 — Spaghetti Dinner, Hope, Upper St. Clair

April 28-30 — Annual Super Spring Weekend, Christ, Forest Hills

April 28 — Bethel Book Club, Glenshaw

April 30 — Music Fest, Zion, Lawrenceville

May 20 — Concordia Ministries, Fashion Show, Butler Country Club, 11:45 a.m.

June 28 — Concordia Ministries Legacy Society Meeting

July 24 — Concordia Ministries 3rd Annual Golf Outing

PALM Monthly Board Meeting

Date: Fourth Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Place: First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church
531 N. Neville St., Oakland, PA

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Sponsor a Radio Sermon Today

BRADDOCK—The Radio Ministry at Immanuel has been ongoing for over 50 years, supported solely by contributions.

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, send your donation to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 420 Fifth Street, Braddock, PA 15104 (note Radio Ministry on your check) and include a note about the reason for the sponsorship (memorial, birthday, etc.) Full broadcasts cost \$150, but any donation is appreciated! It will be announced over the radio, in the bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. Business sponsors also welcome!

“God With Us”

WORD 101.5 FM
Sunday 10:30 a.m.



Editor's Note: There is a reason that the headlines on pages 4 and 5 are similar. Christ alone is the how and why of Christian ministry.

Ministries such as Sonshine Kitchen rely on financial and physical support from brothers and sisters in Christ all over the Pittsburgh area (and beyond). What a blessing when other Christians see this ministry as critical and lend their support, too!

Congregation News

Congregations Enjoy Chili Cook-offs; Begin Lenten Season

Ascension, McCandless

Valentine's Day Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser and after-dinner evening of praise and worship resulted in over \$500 raised for Unity Lutheran Community Mission, and matched by Thrivent.

Bethel, Glenshaw

Others benefit from members' generosity: Veterans' Hospital; Concordia Lutheran Ministries and First Lutheran, Sharpsburg, all recent recipients of gifts. Bethel will participate in the "Ablaze" program in the weeks following Easter, using the program in conjunction with an Every Member Visit in order to better understand talents and gifts, and to develop a mission focus.

The quarterly Book Club is scheduled for Friday, April 28, discussing the book *Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey and Philip Johnson. This book continues the project that Pearcey and Chuck Colson began in *How Now Shall We Live?*, awakening evangelical Christians to the need for a Christian "worldview," which Pearcey defines as "a biblically informed perspective on all reality." Pearcey gives credibly argued perspectives on everything from Rousseau's rebellion against the Enlightenment, to the roots of feminism, to the spiritual poverty of celebrity-driven Christianity. She also provides a layperson's guide to the history of America's anti-intellectual strain of evangelicalism. Several chapters are devoted to a critique of Darwinism and defense of Intelligent Design. Pearcey discusses the insight that modernity has been built on a "two-story" view of reality—with "facts" on the ground floor and "values" up in the air. Her critique of this view is compelling, and her final chapters, which begin to sketch an integrated Christian way of living and thinking, are exceptional. This is the rare long book that leaves one wanting to read more (from *Publisher's Weekly*). Please read the book and join the discussion in April!

The Youth Group is busy developing a VBS program tentatively titled "Bible Boot Camp" for this summer. They are hoping to equip children with the armor of God as they go into the world to face temptation and the Devil. They are excited about their work and thinking carefully about appropriate Bible stories and fun activities that will engage the children who attend.

Calvary, Murrysville

Congratulations to Fred and Hilda Heyn, who became U.S. citizens on January 11, 2006. Thrivent members' 2005 support included Sonshine Kitchen, Calvary Child Development Center, a hurricane victim, a family with cancer and a family in need; \$4600 was donated to these recipients. In addition, Child Development Center received \$770 in matching funds through the Giving Plus Program. Unity Lutheran was recipient of \$215 from the Christmas Card fund.

Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills



The Quilting Group (L to R: Mary Lou Penisch, Barbara Pierre, Lauretta Critchlow and Peg Palascak) working on one of the nine quilts which were made—several with squares made by VBS children last summer. They were sent, along with other bedding, food and household items to the Hains Family in New Orleans who are part of the congregation's "adopted" family. It is still very difficult to shop in the area.

As one of the personal touches, favorite recipes are sent along with the nonperishable "fixings." Angela Weeks, Sunday School student, had her own idea of helping other children. She wrote names of items on hearts that the congregation picks, buys the items and returns them so that the children can pack them into back packs and send them off to New Orleans.

Proceeds from the Men's Chili Cook Off went to help other Katrina-damaged congregations and schools in the New Orleans area. There were 11 entries—and each was different—ranging from very mild to "fire-house" hot! It was a great challenge trying to taste all the entries and make a decision on the winner. The winner, Tom Jones pictured with Deb Weeks, came up with the idea that inspired the terrific event. His prize was a super-duper crock pot—which Tom said he would get a lot of use from—often with chili!

Christ Lutheran, New Castle

During a recent Sunday evening Praise and Worship service three children were baptized: Alexander Viggiano, son of David and Michelle Viggiano, and Brooklyn and Dominic, daughter and son of Stephanie Fiello.

Members of the congregation have signed up to prepare and serve a soup, sandwich and dessert supper at 6 p.m. before each of the Wednesday night Lenten services.

The sauerkraut dinner which was held on February 7 received Care in Congregation funds from Thrivent. A Thrivent-sponsored frozen pie sale will take place with delivery the Monday before Easter.

Operation Lifeline sent Valentine care packages to soldiers in Iraq. Some snacks for the boxes as well as some notes and letters that were written by the children from St. Luke's in Cabot were included. Thanks to Mrs. Montague for bringing them over and to Mrs. Hook for again supplying boxes.

Concordia, Brentwood

Rev. Scott Stiegemeier, along with Rev. Don Matzat of Zion (Bridgeville), to lead a 10-day tour to Israel and Egypt in November. Contact either pastor if interested. Congregation to participate in Baby Bottle Coin Collection for Pregnancy Resource Center of the South Hills.

Epiphany, Penn Hills



They didn't even discuss it ahead of time. They just all came dressed in black and gold. The Epiphany congregation was assured on Super Bowl Sunday by Pastor John Weldon that they were all on Jesus' team.

First Lutheran, Sharpsburg

First Lutheran will be participating in *50 Days Ablaze* starting on Easter. Special Bible studies are planned and personal daily devotional books have

Congregation News Continued**Plan Fundraisers and Other Benefits; to Begin 50 Days Ablaze**

been ordered. They scheduling four in-home weekly Bible studies, a mission festival event, and two Ablaze local servant events during the weeks between the celebrations of Resurrection and Pentecost. The congregation is also starting Crossways for their Sunday morning Bible studies.

Good Shepherd, Whitehall

Youth group will be heading to Jumonville Christian Retreat Center for a weekend of fun, fellowship and faith building. In April, youth will serve a meal at the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind. Congregation sends financial gift to hurricane-damaged St. Paul Lutheran in New Orleans.

Grace, Penn Hills

Congregation celebrating 75th anniversary in September; new photo directory and new hymnals part of plans.

Hope, Upper St. Clair

For the first time in its 44-year history, Hope celebrated Scout Sunday on February 12 with their own Cub Pack - Pack 660! Scouts served as greeters and ushers at the Divine Service, and Conestoga District Commissioner Karen Campbell presented the Pack their national charter for 2006. Congregation celebrated the Boy Scouts of America's 96th birthday, the Cub Scout program's 76th anniversary, Pack 660's 39th anniversary, and their 1st anniversary at Hope.

Hope Lutheran will begin the 2006 Lenten season with a "Soup and Salad" meal before the Lenten worship service on Ash Wednesday. Lenten theme this year will be "Hymns of the Cross: Lenten Meditations in Lutheran Hymnody."

Thrivent members are in the planning stage for the annual spaghetti dinner Friday, April 21 in Hope's fellowship hall. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. All hungry for a great spaghetti dinner are welcome. Plan now to attend the benefit which, including the Thrivent matching funds, will go to the Hope parking lot replacement fund.

Immanuel, Braddock

Immanuel will again be portraying Lenten Scenes on the wall outside of the church on Wednesdays. Each of these presentations will be followed by a short devotion and refreshments in the church basement. The live Last Supper presentation will be on Thursday, April 13.

The next Family Movie Night will be on Friday, March 24 at 7 p.m. Admission and refreshments are free. Call the church office for more information at 412.271.1995.

Mt. Olive, Beaver Falls

Plans are being made to start a kindergarten next fall. *In the Light*, Mt. Olive's contemporary Christian music group, released a new CD; they play monthly at a Saturday night coffeehouse at Mt. Olive. Congratulations to Bela Kiglics, winner of the annual Chili Cook-off.

Prince of Peace, Freedom

Four Stephen Ministers were commissioned on February 5 after 50 hours of training for one-on-one Christian caregiving.

St. John, Millvale

Congregation to study *50 Days Ablaze!* during the Easter season. Voters agreed to purchase an inscribed sidewalk brick for the new North Hills Community Outreach office in Millvale. Members give generously to St. Matthew Christian Academy's Student Assistance Fund; Millvale Food Cupboard; Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center.

St. John the Cove, Accident, MD

Congregation and Sunday School support Lutheran World Relief, Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services (Watertown, WI), the Sonshine Kitchen, and Lutheran Library for the Blind (St. Louis, MO).

St. John, Morrisdale

Congregation to begin *50 Days Ablaze!* mission program in April (Easter to Pentecost). Sunday School supporting LCMS Hurricane Relief, men and women in the military (through CARE packages), and Pennies for VBS mission project for community outreach. LWML continues to financially support seminary student Terry DeGiovanni and Bethesda resident Mark Iverson, as well as Bethesda Home and Concordia Lutheran Ministries (Cabot) plus shipped nine boxes of blankets for Lutheran World Relief.

St. Luke, Cabot

Following the December mission trip to New Orleans, members are again heading down to St. Paul Lutheran in March to lend some personal assistance. Members also planning second mission trip to Saltillo, Mexico in mid-June; 22 youth and adults will help a

Lutheran congregation there on continuing construction of a church and also conduct Vacation Bible School. Yvonne Wallace was recently commissioned as Congregational Gift Planner.

St. Matthew, Pittsburgh

Welcome to Rev. Michael Schumacher and Carol, along with their children Luke (19), Rachel and Rebekah (16) and Hannah (12). Carol is teaching at Redeemer Lutheran School. Both Rev. and Mrs. Schumacher are trained Stephen Ministry leaders and Rev. Schumacher is also a trained conciliator with Peacemaker Ministries. Welcome also to Jennifer Nelson, new Administrative Assistant.

Zion, Lawrenceville

A Salad and Sandwich Light Dinner will be served prior to the Ash Wednesday joint service with Immanuel. Zion will again sponsor its Easter Breakfast before the worship service on the Day of Resurrection beginning at 8:15 a.m. The free-will offering will be presented to the local Meal and Wheels chapter. On April 30 Zion will host a Music Fest featuring The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, one of Zion's confirmands, Sheila Adams, who is enrolled in Rogers school of the Creative and Performing Arts with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, a solo trombonist and Immanuel's Prayz Choir. Funds will be donated to Immanuel's Sunday morning radio broadcast.

Redeemer Seeking Parish Secretary

OAKMONT — Redeemer Lutheran Church is seeking a new church secretary, part-time only, without benefits, Tuesday through Friday. Salary begins at \$8/hour, depending upon experience.

Basic duties include preparing worship bulletins, monthly newsletter and documents as needed; telephone and mail; ordering office and worship supplies; maintaining church records and office equipment.

Good basic secretarial skills required, including Microsoft Office products, the Internet and email, and photocopying.

To apply, contact William Humphrey, Trustee, at 412.793.9330 or email wahpaint@juno.com

Christ, Forest Hills

Students at Christ Lutheran School in Forest Hills and Concordia Lutheran School in Seattle, Washington exchanged boxes just in time for the Super Bowl. The package sent to Seattle included student drawn Steeler signs, Pittsburgh postcards, a Terrible Towel, a "Big Ben" #7 ball cap, a bottle of Heinz Ketchup, and a bag of Pittsburgh Pretzels. Concordia Lutheran sent some Washington State apples, Seattle's Best Coffee, and some student work cheering on the Seahawks. It was a fun way to learn about each city and show some Christian sportsmanship at the same time.

By Laura Schumm



Students in Miss Laura Schumm's 5th grade class who put the Steeler Box together. Row 1: Meredith Caudill, Alex Pasculle, Maggie Lilac. Row 2: Sarah Kolat, Melissa Privette, Lance Hinton. Row 3: Laylah Robinson, Heather Catley, Matt Fabrizi



Students ready to munch on the Washington apples after Steelers' Super Bowl victory. Row 1: Lance Hinton, Meredith Caudill, Melissa Privette, Maggie Lilac. Row 2: Conor Craig, Matt Fabrizi, Laylah Robinson, Heather Catley, Kristen Thompson-Davis

National Lutheran Schools Week will be full of fun and surprises for our students. Some of the events planned include multi-grade activities, an all-school field trip, special theme days throughout the week, and connections with parents and congregation. The students started things off by sending Val-

entines of thanks to the members of Christ Lutheran Church. We are reaching out in service to the community by providing a bin for paper recycling through the Abitibi company. The bright green bin arrived recently. Anyone can bring their newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and junk mail to the bin in our back parking lot. Call the school office for more information on how you can help.

We are also reaching out to a family devastated by hurricane Katrina last August. By collecting items, chapel offerings and cash donations, our staff, students, school families, and congregation members are helping this family get their home started again. Praise the Lord.

The Olympics provided opportunities for learning more about our world. In addition to the many sports involved, there were activities in art, geography, math, and current events. Our own Olympic-type event will begin this spring as the Running/Walking Club gets started under the direction of gym teacher Joanna Tunncliffe. The other schools of PALS will also be participating in a marathon event culminating at the PALS Field Day in May.

A kick-off session for National Lutheran School Accreditation was held recently, so the committees have begun the process of gathering information for the self-study report. We are pleased that so many parents and congregational members are willing to help us achieve this goal. To God be the glory.

The time has come to begin enrollment for next year. Families may contact the school at any time for tours and information.

By Lois Frerking, Principal

Redeemer, Oakmont

A big welcome to Carol and Hannah Schumacher of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Carol joins our staff as a part-time language arts teacher for the upper grades, and her daughter Hannah joins our 7th grade class. Carol is an experienced Lutheran School teacher with a great appreciation of Christian Education and the opportunities to share the Gospel a Lutheran School affords. Carol's husband, Rev. Michael Schumacher, was recently installed as the pastor of St. Matthew. We welcome the Schumachers to Pittsburgh!

Redeemer Lutheran School will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week with a variety of activities. On Monday and Thursday each class have their own plans to celebrate. On Tuesday, we will



Developing Disciples

Lutheran Schools
A Great Place To Grow

"...grow up into Him... Christ." Ephesians 4:15

begin our day with a Pancake Breakfast sponsored by our 7th graders. The 7th grade class will take a trip to Chicago in May, and will sponsor two pancake breakfasts and an ice cream sundae party to raise funds. Students in K-7 will then visit the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for the day. On Wednesday we will celebrate authors Jan and Stan Berenstain, learning about them and the books they write, even doing a little writing and illustrating of our own. Friday is a favorite day of the week, "Bring a Friend Day". The students bring grown-up friends to school for a morning of activities. It is an action-packed week culminating with worship and a luncheon on Sunday. We consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve the Lord at Redeemer Lutheran School. As always He continues to bless this ministry to children. Through prayers and the dedication of our staff and congregation, the school ministry continues to grow and will add 8th grade in 2006. In addition, we are restructuring the existing five-year-old preschool class, to be an enrichment class for both five-year-olds and kindergartners. The class curriculum will be literature-based, incorporating many of the skills already learned in preschool, and building on the skills learned in kindergarten.

Registrations are now being accepted for students age 3 through the 8th grade. If you know someone who would benefit by attending our school, pass on our phone number 412.828.9323, or send them to our web site www.redeemer-oakmont.org

By Gail Holzer, Principal

St. Luke, Cabot

The Sprint Recycle for Teachers program presented a check for \$1,500 for a Second Place grant. Second grade students collected 1,199 telephone books and was individual class winner; they celebrated with a pizza party and received \$100 for classroom supplies. Nearly four tons was collected by the whole school for the recycling effort.

The Annual Student Scholarship Fund was exceeded by \$5,000 when the

final pledges hit the \$40,000 mark.

Well, all of our raucous pep rallies, Black and Gold days, creative posters and decorations, and general enthusiasm must have spurred the Steelers on to Super Bowl victory. Finally, "One for the Thumb"!

St. Luke will be a hotbed of activity during Lutheran Schools Week, beginning with participation in Saturday and Sunday church services. Students in K-8 will sing praises, the school orchestra will play, and upper graders will write a worship litany and read the lessons. Our PTL moms will host their 18th annual soup and pie sale.

On Monday, students in K-5 will invite a special adult friend to share the morning with them. KDKA meteorologist Dennis Bowman will be a guest speaker for this group. Tuesday will be school-wide Physical Fitness Day, featuring a school-wide Jazzercise class, a healthy snack, and the always popular 7th and 8th graders vs. faculty volleyball game. We'll show our school colors (red, white and Christian) on Wednesday and then enjoy a movie, popcorn and "no homework night". Chapel partners will celebrate together on Thursday with their favorite stuffed animals and board games. We'll round out the week with a patriotic Red/White/Blue dress-up day to show our pride in the USA.

As we celebrate with the rest of the Lutheran schools, St. Luke gives thanks to our Heavenly Father for 140 years of blessings He has showered upon our little country school.

By Sharon Ambrose

St. Matthew Christian Academy

Students in Grades 5 and 6 enjoyed playing volleyball and Math 24 on their visit to St. Luke Lutheran School in Cabot. The Math 24 game involves using all four numbers on a card with any or all of the four basic mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) to come up with the number 24. The first student coming up with the right combination places his or her hand on the deck to claim the card. Other players may challenge the expression if it is believed to be incorrect. Points are awarded for each card correctly solved, and the winner is the one holding the most points at the end of the round, which can consist of twelve or more cards. Variations include creating factor wheels (pictured). Joining St. Matthew and St.



Luke students was a group from Redeemer Lutheran School in Oakmont.

St. Matthew students will be joining those from all of the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools in celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week. All week long, the school will be carrying out a service project by bringing in food for the St. Matthew Food Bank. Monday, March 6 is Hat Day. On Tuesday, March 7, older students will read to younger



students, making use of all the practice they get in spending 30 minutes reading aloud every day of the school year. The young listeners will write down the names of the stories they hear (pictured). Wednesday, March 8 is Ultra Dress-Up Day. Thursday, March 9 is Food Bank Day, set aside for counting how much food has been brought in, and presenting an award to the winning class. The week will close with a visit to the Carnegie Science Center on Friday, March 10.

This is the third year of the classical multiage program at St. Matthew. Grade 8 was restored this year. Early Childhood Director Susan Basinski teaches Preschool and Kindergarten classes. Sandra Baumgardner teaches Grades 1 and 2, and Principal Mark Shields teaches Grades 3 through 8. Of the 34 students who are currently enrolled, only 5 are members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Of the remaining 29 students, only one is Lutheran, and many are unchurched, continuing our urban mission tradition.

Sessions attended by St. Matthew faculty at the Christian Classical Education Conference, held at North Park Church this year, will include: Transition from Grammar to Dialectic Stage, Teaching to the Heart, and Teaching Critical Thinking. Keynote speaker for the conference, and also one of the presenters, is Dr. Jay Wile, author of St. Matthew's upper-grade science textbook. Teachers also plan to return to the Midwest multiage conference, which will be held in Indianapolis this July. Multiage learning takes place in an environment where older and younger students learn to respect and care for each other, much as early American learners did in one-room schoolhouses all over our country.

The hugely successful triplet (bicycle for three riders) is being readied for the upcoming 2006 season for St. Matthew Mileposters, and the tandems and combinations will follow. Startup rides will take place on Pittsburgh's newly-extended South Side Trail, which now runs all the way from Station Square to Baldwin Borough, in the shadow of the Glenwood Bridge—six miles, for possible round trips of 12 miles. Planning is underway for missing links past Sandcastle Water Park and Kennywood Amusement Park; the section past The Waterfront in Homestead, with its string of gas lights, has been finished for several years. The trail will make a dramatic entrance to McKeesport, crossing the Monongahela River on the graceful Riverton Bridge. Completion will make it possible to begin a ride from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC at Station Square instead of at McKeesport or Boston. A possible repeat of the DC ride and other multiple-day camping trips are in the planning stage. Meanwhile, Gatorade is being stockpiled—there are over 200 bottles in readiness for upcoming rides!

By Mark Shields, Principal

Preschool News

Good Shepherd Preschool, Whitehall

Children will sing in worship service on March 5 and a Preschool Art Fair is planned. Recent visitors included a dental hygienist, a fire safety rep from Allegheny County Health Department and Elaine and Dan Kurtz, who shared pictures from a recent trip to Antarctica.

(Please continue article on page 10.)

Deaf Ministry Takes Youth Snow Tubing

NEW LIFE classes went snow tubing Monday evening, February 13, taking 11 students and six chaperones, including teachers Debbie Bucciero, Bill Hallock, and Rev. Mark Ruppert. Several of the NEW LIFE students were unable to attend the event due to the winter storm that hit the eastern states the weekend before. That snowfall delayed the return of those residential students from the Lancaster, PA area attending the Western Pennsylvania School of the Deaf during the week.

The group went by bus to Wildwood Highlands at North Park (Wexford area) where five runs were open for snow tubing. Students and adults had a blast.



Above, Bill Hallock maintains order among half a dozen deaf children waiting their turn to hit the slopes. Below, left and right, deaf students from WPSD enjoy the weekly NEW LIFE classes on Mondays; many of the students have been attending the program for several years.



More Preschool News

Mt. Olive Preschool, Beaver Falls

Service project in January was Band-Aids for Buddies, a collection for Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Proceeds from a Trike-a-thon in February benefitted St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. March service project is collecting canned goods for Meals on Wheels.

Lutheran Schools Week will be celebrated with singing in the Sunday worship services on March 5 and March 12. Earlier, students will celebrate Dr. Theodore Seuss' birthday with a visit from the Cat in the Hat and a meal of green eggs and ham. Later in the month the Police Department will visit and teach the children about Stranger Danger.

St. John, Millvale

Students enjoyed their annual trip to Mellon Arena for a Sesame Street Live ice show, Elmo's Coloring Book.

Bethel, Glenshaw

Preschool has an enrollment of 32 students and will hold a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on March 18 from 4 -7 p.m. Thrivent will match proceeds.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Monroeville

Our week begins with Backwards Day on Monday, March 6. The children will wear their clothes backwards, practice walking backwards, and having their classes in reverse order.

Wednesday and Thursday both classes celebrate International Day. The parents are welcomed into our classes to share their heritages. Some talk to the children, wear native dress, teach them dances, share favorite food from their country. The children and the parents always enjoy the time so much that we continue to have this every year.

Friday is Pajama Day. The students will wear their PJs to class, bring a blanket, favorite animal. We will be making pancakes for breakfast as part of our fun.

Sunday, March 12 is our celebration of Lutheran School Sunday. The preschoolers will sing at the worship service.

By Kathy Sourbeer, Director

Everyone Welcome in Forest Hills; Activities Abound

FOREST HILLS—The Women's Service Guild of Christ, Forest Hills, invites everyone to join them on Thursday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. as Gloria Stern leads a Bible Study entitled "Three Ordinary Women". You will want to hear the amazing stories of three ordinary women of the Bible, who came to be extraordinary parts of God's redemptive work in history. Their lives will both challenge and motivate you in your commitment to Christ. Come and see who they are! Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Scrapbooking Group meets again on Friday, March 17, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Everyone is welcome! You'll enjoy the fellowship, sharing of ideas, and refreshments as well. Bring along a started project—or start a new one.

Everyone is invited to come along with the Outing Fellowship Group on Saturday, March 25 at 8:15 a.m. as it travels 90 miles to Meyersdale, PA for the Pennsylvania Maple Festival. Did you know that Pennsylvania is 5th in the nation for maple syrup production? Begin with the Pancake and Sausage meal served by the Lions Club. Then see the Quilt Show, demonstrations of maple syrup production, the Western Maryland Railway Station (including the Model Railroading Exhibit), the Salisbury Via Duct, and Savage Tunnel. It should be a delightful and informative day!

Mark your calendars now for Christ Lutheran's annual Super Spring Weekend—April 28-30—with a FREE Clothing Swap and Children's Book/DVD Swap on Friday; Sat. will include the FREE Clothing and Book/DVD SWAP, along with a light lunch, car wash, and games for all ages children; and Sunday will wrap up the Free Clothing/Book and DVD Swap and light lunch to benefit the church's Stove Fund. It should be a great weekend!

By Donna Knoche

Newsletter Deadline

You hosted an event and no one came? Put your event on the calendar! Publicize two (or more) months in advance for best results. Send your information to the editor by the 15th of each month.

Thrivent and Habitat to Build 12 Homes in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania Area

NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA—Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity (AVHFH) and the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Ohio Region are building a home in the Allegheny Valley as part of a nationwide effort to create additional homeownership opportunities with low-income families.

"This is a very exciting partnership for me personally and for our Habitat affiliate," said Diane Belitskus, Executive Director of the Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity. "Because of Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity funding, we will be able to build an additional home this year. That's another family in simple, decent, affordable housing this year alone."

Nationally, Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are building up to 312 homes in 2006. The homes will be in addition to the more than 5,000 homes Habitat affiliates build annually in the United States and represent a six percent increase in Habitat home production. More than \$1 million will go toward the building of 12 homes in Ohio and western Pennsylvania.



The effort is part of a new alliance, Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. The alliance makes Thrivent Financial Habitat's largest single ally in its mission to eliminate substandard housing and rebuild communities. The homes will be built in more than 200 communities in 42 states. This represents an estimated \$21.7 million investment from Thrivent Financial in 2006 alone. During the four-year alliance, Thrivent Financial intends to invest a total of \$105 million to increase annual house production by up to 500 U.S. homes per year and more around the world.

Habitat affiliates across the nation were invited to apply for Thrivent Builds with Habitat funding. A total of 265 affiliates are receiving funding based on their ability to increase local building efforts and have been paired with nearly 400 Thrivent volunteer chapters (local volunteer groups of Thrivent Financial members). The homes will be built in large urban areas such as Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Philadelphia, Miami and San Francisco, as well as commu-

nities such as Rochester, N.Y., Lima, Ohio, and Brookings, S.D.

In the Ohio Region of Thrivent Financial, 13 Thrivent volunteer chapters will help with fund-raising and home building.

"We're eager to step up our efforts to reduce substandard housing in Ohio and western Pennsylvania," said Dino Capestrani, Manager of Lutheran Community Services for Thrivent Financial in the Ohio Region. "Our volunteers are ready to get started and are looking forward to working with others in their communities."

Volunteers interested in supporting the Thrivent Builds home in the Allegheny Valley area may contact the Thrivent Builds Chapter Specialist, Lynn Capestrani at 724.285.5241, or via email at lcapestrani@advertising-concepts.com.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat represents a unique alliance between two national nonprofit networks of 1,699 Habitat affiliates and 1,362 Thrivent volunteer chapters. In 2004, Thrivent chapters delivered more than 19 million volunteer hours of community service. The alliance combats the chronic national and worldwide problem of substandard housing. More than 13 million U.S. households use at least half of their income to pay for housing. Millions more live in overcrowded conditions or housing with severe physical deficiencies, such as having no hot water, electricity or toilet.

"We want to reach out and help even more families each year and this can only be done through innovative alliances," said Jonathan Reckford, chief executive officer of Habitat for Humanity International. "Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is bringing not only its generous donation but also engaging its members and communities to volunteer time and raise funds for this effort."

Reaching beyond the U.S., Thrivent Builds will take volunteers around the world to build with families in need, with the goal of eventually building up to 200 homes overseas per year. Additionally, Thrivent Builds will raise awareness about substandard and affordable housing issues through the one-of-a-kind Thrivent Builds Mobile. The mobile exhibit, housed in a 48-foot-long semi trailer truck, is crisscrossing the country to give visitors a powerful



experience designed to educate and call communities to action.

"Thrivent Builds with Habitat is giving our nearly three million members and others a wonderful opportunity to not only raise roofs, but to raise hope as well with hundreds of families across the U.S.," said Bruce Nicholson, Thrivent Financial chairman, president and CEO. "Thrivent Financial has a mission of service. This allows our members to support Habitat with both our financial and volunteer resources."

By Dino Capestrani

Fellow Lutherans Invited to Help Refinish Doors Damaged by Flood

SHARPSBURG—Leaders of First Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg, invite brothers and sisters from area churches to a work day on Saturday, March 25 to finish renovation made necessary by the flood of 2004. Many wooden doors and doorways were damaged during the Hurricane Ivan flood, and we will be removing, sanding, refinishing, and reinstalling doors on that day, starting at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided, and we plan to work into the afternoon, rain or shine. Men and women with moderate to high experience in working with wood finishing are asked to come to the church at 600 Clay St. Those with finish sanders and saw horses may bring them.

Point of historical interest: Did you know that First Ev. Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg, just blocks from the north bank of the Allegheny River, suffered major interior damage in the spring of 1936, after heavy snows and ice underwent a fast thaw and the river overflowed its banks? The main floor of the sanctuary was under approximately nine feet of water. The sanctuary suffered major damage to pews, floor, pulpit, and even the heavy marble baptismal font, necessitating its being reworked and downsized to its present shape.

By Rev. Mark Ruppert

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Two Promoted to Vice President



CABOT—Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO, is pleased to announce the promotions of Charlene Kline and Brian Hortert to positions of Vice President for the organization.

Effective immediately, Charlene Kline, NHA, RN, Administrator will become Vice President of Skilled Nursing Services. This change was made to better describe her level of responsibility at the main campus as well as to reflect her new oversight and consulting responsibilities for the Skilled Nursing Services that is provided at Concordia at Rebecca Residence. She began her geriatric career at St. Barnabas Health System in 1991. Licensed as a nursing home administrator and registered nurse, Charlene earned her B.S. in Business Management from Carlow College and an A.D. in nursing from Butler County Community College. Arriving at Concordia in 1999, she is responsible for the overall coordination and administration of the 136-bed skilled nursing facility on the Cabot campus as well as consulting oversight for the 60 skilled beds at Rebecca Residence in Allison Park.

A resident of Renfrew, Charlene has three children, Jessica, a senior at Slippery Rock University; Jeremy serving in the US Army in Korea, and Jeffrey, a freshman at Mercyhurst College. Her fiancé, Mike Kish, is a teacher in the Slippery Rock School District.

Brian K. Hortert, NHA, BSW, former Director, has been promoted to Vice President of Assisted Living Services. This change recognizes Brian's responsibilities on the main campus as well as his ongoing responsibilities to oversee management at Concordia at the Orchard in Butler and Concordia at Ridgewood Place in Plum Borough. Added to his area will be the oversight and consulting responsibilities for Assisted Living Services at Concordia at Rebecca Residence.



Brian came to Concordia in 2001 from the Tack Associated Nursing Homes (Sugar Creek Rest, Chicora Medical Center, Countryside, Trinity Living Center and Laurel Manor) where he provided oversight of directors and assistance to administrators. In his 20-year career, he owned and operated a 25-bed personal care facility, and served as Social Service Director and Admissions Director. Recently, he served as a representative on the statewide task force to review and provide consultation on its Assisted Living regulations. A resident of Butler, Brian and his wife, Chrysa have two children, Ben and Olivia.



New Position Created; Fiffik Named General Counsel

CABOT—Cristen L. Fiffik of Franklin Park was named General Counsel, a new position at Concordia Lutheran Ministries by Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO.

She comes to Concordia after a career hiatus of five years. She left CentiMark Corporation as General Manager of Strategic Alliances in May of 2001 to accept her role as stay-at-home mother having also served as Assistant General Counsel for six years. CentiMark is North America's leading commercial and industrial roofing contractor and the first to achieve a 5A1 Dun & Bradstreet rating based on a strong credit appraisal and a net worth in excess of \$50 million.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1992, Fiffik earned her B.S. in Finance and Banking from the University of Missouri.

A member of the American Corporate Counsel Association, she is financial secretary for St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, where she is also involved in various fundraising activities for its elementary school. She and her husband, Michael, a partner in the law firm of Welch, Gold and Siegel, P.C. have two children.



Bowling Tournament at Lund.

Tickets for Concordia's First Fashion Show Selling Quickly

CABOT—The First CLM Fashion Show will be held on Saturday, May 20 at Butler Country Club. Tickets are \$25. A hot lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. but guests are welcome by 10:30 a.m. The show, featuring "Fashions by Phyllis" begins at 1 p.m.

Ten percent of all fashions and accessories sold at the event will be donated to Concordia's Capital Campaign.

Call Dorothy Blankenbuehler at 724.352.4308 or Roxie Nicol toll-free 1.888.352.1571, ext. 265 to make your reservations. Due to limited seating, deadline is May 12.

Two Residents Celebrate 90th Birthdays

CABOT—Ruth L. McConnell Freehling at Concordia Haven III celebrated her 90th birthday on February 12 and has lived in the independent living at Concordia Lutheran Ministries in Cabot for four years.



Ruth and husband Ken came to Concordia from their home in Sarver. Born in Vandergrift, Ruth says, "My parents loved to move around so I attended 10 different schools in 12 years. My sister and I moved to Brackenridge to live with my aunt when the Depression began and my Mom and Dad lived on a farm in Kittanning."

The Freehlings met through her sister after Ruth was discharged from the U.S. Navy and were married 57 years before his death last April 15th. Ruth and Ken were parents of one son, Michael and his wife, Peg who live in Spartanburg, SC. She has two grandsons, Joe, who is planning to be married, and Tim, in Kuwait with the U.S. Army.

A member of Zion United Methodist Church in Sarver, Ruth retired from City Hospital in Akron as an X-ray technician. She also belongs to the American Legion in Cabot.

Sophie Tomaszewski Pacek celebrated her 90th birthday on January 28 and has lived in the independent living at Concordia Lutheran Ministries Haven II for nine years.

Sophie came to Concordia from her home in Tarentum five years after her husband Emil died. She attended Tarentum High School and worked at Liberty Mirror in Brackenridge as an inspector during World War II. Sophie and Emil were parents of two children, David and his wife, Brigit who live in

Suwanee, GA and a daughter, Maria, who died when she was only 10 months old.

Active at Concordia, Sophie serves as an usher in the chapel, a volunteer for Angels on Call, a program that administers to fellow residents in their last days and has performed at the Concordia Talent Show for the last four years. A member of Evangel Heights Assembly of God Church in Sarver, she belongs to its Silver Saints group for those aged 50+. Her hobbies include cooking, baking, writing religious tracts, reading the Bible and praying for those in need. "I love poetry and music," she notes, and her fellow residents call her, "the Cookie Lady" or "Sweet Sophie."

She remembers younger days when she enjoyed dancing the Waltz, the Fox Trot, Tango and Jitterbug. Sophie has a brother, Dan Tomaszewski, who lives at Rose Brook and a sister, Stella Tomaszewski, residing at Fair Winds, Sarver.



Sophie Tomaszewski Pacek

Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus Concerts at Concordia Lutheran Ministries

The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus will be at Concordia Lutheran Ministries on Sunday, April 23 for two concerts. They will sing at Haven I at 6 p.m. and Lund at the afternoon service.

Calling for Legacy Society Members

The Third Annual Appreciation event for members of Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Legacy Society will be held at **The Pittsburgh Field Club in Fox Chapel on Wednesday, June 28, 2006** and hosted by Concordia's President and Chief Executive Officer, Keith E. Frndak and his Division Directors as well as Concordia's Board of Directors.

At this time, the Development Office is compiling a guest list for this event. We wish to make certain we don't miss any potential member.

In 2000, Concordia's Legacy Society was established as a way to recognize and thank gifts such as **bequests through wills or living trust gifts**. These include **gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, retirement plans or life insurance policies that name Concordia as beneficiary**.

Any pledge or gift of \$5000+ to the Capital Campaign "A Time To Build ..." on behalf of the Lund Care Center Expansion entitles you to membership in this exclusive group of high-achieving benefactors. As one of Concordia's lead contributors, we are both honored and privileged to acknowledge your benevolence in this

way. Your gift places you in a distinctive group of people committed to the health and well-being of senior adults through the services Concordia provides.

The Legacy Society's purpose is threefold:

- ◆ to honor and thank those special friends whose thoughtful estate planning will advance the financial strength of Concordia

- ◆ to foster interest in advancing the mission of Concordia to through planned gifts

- ◆ to recognize the resident care and capital project initiatives supported by planned gifts

Member benefits include:

- ◆ Invitations to special events

- ◆ Updates on tax-advantaged charitable estate-planning opportunities

- ◆ A premium gift as a symbol of our gratitude

- ◆ Recognition in newsletters and annual reports

If you think that you qualify for membership and were not included at last year's event, please contact Shirley M. Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 266.

Two Haven Couples Celebrate 60th Anniversary

CABOT—H. Glenn and Helen R. Beecher of Concordia Haven II in Cabot will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at an Open House hosted by their children on April 22nd from 2 - 4 p.m. in the Dining Room. The former Helen Zimmerman married Glenn Beecher on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1946 at First Ev. Lutheran Church in Leechburg.



They have two sons, Mark (wife, Ann) of Parkersburg, West Virginia and Kevin of Allegheny Township; two daughters, Jennifer Foley (husband, Joseph) of Moon Township, and Christine Bollinger of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida who is engaged to Dr. James Wells; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Glenn retired in 1983 as a machinist with Allegheny Ludlum Steel after 37 years of service. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge in Leechburg and a former member of the Allegheny Township Lions Club. Helen worked for Allegheny Ludlum Steel Company for four years and for Kiski Area School District in the cafeteria for a decade. Current members of the church where they were married, Glenn served on church council and Helen taught Sunday School, belonged to the women's group and the church choir. She is also a member of the Order of Eastern Star in Apollo. The Beechers are members of the Leechburg Museum Historical Society and Allegheny Kiski Valley Historical Society.

Before coming to Concordia nine years ago, the Beechers lived in their native Allegheny Township. Glenn and Helen enjoyed traveling and fondly

remember the annual trips south in the fifth wheel and "his beloved" truck. Helen still keeps busy with scrapbooking, an interest which her grandmother started, photo albums and genealogy. Helen has a scrapbook since her elementary school days.

Dorothy and James Arner of Concordia Haven I in Cabot celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 25th in their apartment. The former Dorothy Huston married Arner on January 25, 1946 at the Ninth Avenue United Presbyterian Church in Tarentum.

They have two daughters, Karen Brunner (husband, Robert) of West Lake Village, California and Doris Bounds (husband, Omar) of Dresher, PA; four grandchildren, Zachary, 20 at Edinboro College; Robert, 25, who lives in New Jersey; Allison Bolinski (husband, Stanley) in Union NJ; Kimberly Smith (husband, Robert) of King of Prussia, PA and two great-grandchildren, Stanley and Connor. Their daughter Karen and her family from California came and celebrated at the J-Barn at Thanksgiving.

Jim, a native of Brackenridge, graduated from Harbrack High School and enlisted in the Navy during WWII and spent 36 days in Iwo Jima. During the three years he served he completed nine combat landings. He and Dorothy were engaged while he was overseas. In fact, it was Dorothy's mother, who lived with them for 42 years, who presented her with the engagement ring.

He retired in 1988 as Vice President and General Manager of Precision Printing in Southside following a lifelong career in graphic arts. A history buff, he spends a great deal of time in woodworking and calls himself a "wood butcher." His claim to fame, he says, "I make the best sawdust in Butler County." In fact, the *Valley News Dispatch* featured him in a piece about the crosses he whittles. They are also planning a story about a watch Dorothy gave him before they were married that he still uses when the battery dies in his other watches. Jim is a member of the Syria Shrine.

Before coming to Concordia seven years ago, the Arnerns lived in Natrona Heights. Mrs. Arner, originally from Tarentum and a graduate of Tarentum High School had a brother, Robert who lived in Haven III with his wife and encouraged them to come to live at the



Havens. She volunteered for 15 years at Alle-Kiski Medical Center for the American Cancer Society's three-corner unit; still hosts card club and has some beautiful needlework framed and hung in their apartment.

The Arnerns are members of the First United Presbyterian Church of Tarentum. They have been the "poster couple" for Concordia Haven Apartments advertising and are members of the Resident Advisory Committee there.

Forever Sweethearts



Each Haven celebrates Valentine's Day with a special dinner and entertainment to follow. Haven I's event was held on February 13 and enjoying the special menu are St. Luke's members, Perry and Dorothy Graham (above) and former Redeemer pastor, Rev. Simmons and his wife Mary (below).



Steeler Mania Reaches Concordia Campus

Residents and staff alike participated in pep rallies, football throwing and "Name That Steeler" contests. They watched Steeler videos, sang new fight songs and created a Steeler craft during the week before the Super Bowl. Every location on the Cabot campus was decorated with black and gold cheering the AFC Champions on to victory. Even the construction workers were part of the effort. Concordia made it a fundraiser by charging \$3 to wear blue jeans and black and gold.



Steeler Pep Rally on Friday, February 3 with 57 residents, nine staff members and families.

Zoo Comes to Lund

The Pittsburgh Zoo presented "Animal Biofacts" in the Lund Care Center activities room to Concordia Lutheran Ministries residents on January 28, where 55 Assisted Living residents, skilled nursing residents, and family members attended the hour-long show that educated listeners about a variety of animal facts. Everyone had a chance to feel the pelts of a fox, otter, beaver, and a skunk, and touch an ostrich and emu egg. Torey from the Zoo displayed a live owl perched on her arm. The skin of a live skunk with a royal blue tongue wasn't as wet as it looked and we petted a little guinea pig named Cordelia. Residents left with a lot of knowledge about the animals found at the Pittsburgh Zoo.



Above, football throws; below, Haven III Pep Rally on Thursday, February 2.



Cheering for the Steelers at the Haven II Pep Rally on Friday, February 3.



Oertel's Steeler's Tree

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts January 14, 2006 through February 16, 2006

General Donations

Gerline Gehr - St. John's LWML - Barbara Fisher - Doug Bornemann - Albert & Joan Lucas - Calvin & Alma Eggers - Robert & Muriel Auger - Norman Morgan - The Rev. Frederic and Walda Schumann Memorial Endowment Fund - Anna K. Maurhoff - Samuel & Connie Oesterling - Richard & Susan Boggs - Jeffery & Linda Cairns. In honor of Carl Boltz's 90th Birthday by: Mary Anne, Charles and Wayne Wiedenheft.

Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

Geraldine Williams - Mary Lois Schuneman - Lorraine Bernarding - Henry & Lois Dittmer. In honor of Emma Schelien's 101st birthday by: Margaret Schelien. In memory of Opal Miller by: Dorothy Morgan. In memory of James Barraclough by: Irene Barraclough. In memory of Margaret Schrecker by: Brent & Stacey Wenthur. In memory of Mildred Heinsberg by: Hilda Oswald. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

Staff Appreciation Fund

Hilda Oswald - Barbara Saylor. In memory of Margaret Schrecker by: Lou & Judy Schrecker.

Concordia Visiting Nurses Charitable Fund

Eugene & Rose Marie Klebingot

Congregational Donations

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom - St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cabot - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Grace Lutheran Church, Palisades Park, NJ - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont - Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville.

Memorial Contributions

In memory of Stella McCandless by: Ronald McCandless. In memory of Margaret Elva Whitmire by: Gerald & Joyce Holhauser - Fran Pate - Phillips Family Chiropractic, P.C. - Carole Demmy. In memory of Doris Elliott by: Patricia Fleeger. In memory of Priscilla Fischer by: Rev. Adam & Mildred Kegel. In memory of Emma Oesterholm by: Margaret Belajac - Kathi McGrath. In memory of Margaret Schrecker by: Kass McCormick & Kathy Thomas.

Capital Campaign Fund

Harold & Ruth Dille - John Sedmak - John & Barbara Schneidmiller - Homer Otterman - Ann Rosenquest - Bess Higgins - Margaret Schelien. In recognition of Barbara Parobek's 90th birthday by: Emil & Julia Dananay.

Concordia at the Orchard

Lynn Scott



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